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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,862	10/28/2003	Yoshio Okado	031228	4084

23850 7590 03/24/2006

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EXAMINER

HOOK, JAMES F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3754

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakiuchi in view of Coran. The patent to Kakiuchi discloses the recited fuel hose innermost layer of a rubber mix which including the use of ACM and NBR to form the mixed rubber innermost layer 4, and a fluororesin layer 1 which is formed outside the innermost layer, where a DBU salt such as 1,8-diazabicyclo (5.4.0)undecene-7 is blended in with the rubber mixtures forming the innermost layer. The patent to Kakiuchi discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of disclosing the ratio and amount of acrylonitrile and acrylic rubber in the mixture. The patent to Coran discloses that it is old and well known to mix ACM and NBR to form a rubber layer where the amount of acrylonitrile in the NBR layer can be 25%, and where the ratio of amount of ACM to NBR can vary including the ration of 3:7-7:3 as seen in Table III. It would have

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been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the innermost layer of Kakiuchi to be formed of a ACM/NBR mix having the ratio in the range of 3:7-7:3 and to use a 25% acrylonitrile NBR to form this mixture as suggested by Coran where such provides excellent resistance to degrading effects and heat thereby preventing premature failure and saving replacement costs.

Conclusion

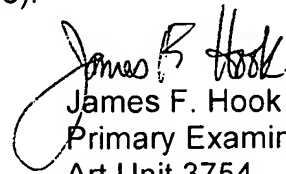
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Fukushi, Bunnomori, Igarashi, Kitami, Ozawa, Kawazura, Iio, and Daikai disclosing state of the art hoses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (571) 272-4903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, work at home Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James F. Hook
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754

JFH